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United States Department of the Interior, J. A. Krug, Secretary  
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BIG-GAME INVENTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, 1947  
Compiled in  
Section of Wildlife Investigations on Public Lands  
Branch of Wildlife Research

Annual inventories, by states, and types of land ownership of big-game mammals in the United States were compiled by the Bureau of Biological Survey and its successor, the Fish and Wildlife Service, from 1937 to 1941. During the war only one compilation (1943) was made. The first post-war inventory was published in 1948 for the calendar year 1946.

Due to the difficulty in avoiding duplication of population figures between the various types of land ownership, it was decided to obtain only state totals for each species from the Fish and Game Departments. The present inventory was made up in this way.

It was thought that it would be helpful to show how the state totals were derived. Accordingly, a system was developed for designating the types of inventories used.

The figures of 1,000 or above were rounded to the nearest 100. With species in which only small numbers were concerned, it seemed worthwhile to show where even a few animals were present.

The total populations of the three groups of deer, elk, moose, and prong-horned antelope remained essentially the same as in 1946. Some of the less important species showed greater relative changes, but these were often caused by variations in inventory methods.

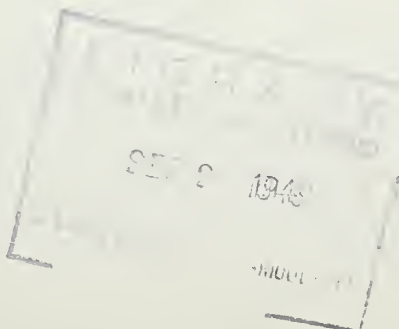


TABLE 1.—Summary by states of big-game animals in annual inventory, 1944.

State	White tailed deer	Mule deer	Columbian black-tailed deer	Wood- land caribou	Elk	Moose	Prong- horned antelope	Rocky Mountain bighorn	Desert bighorn	Mountain goat	Peccary or javelina	European wild boar	Black bear	Grizzly bear	American bison or buffalo	Totals
Alabama.....	45,800 E 1/	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	246 E	.....	.....	46,000
Arizona.....	No figures given	.....	.....	.....	175 E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	75 E	.....	.....	49,100
Arkansas.....	48,900 E	.....	.....	.....	900	.....	4,200	.....	1,200	.....	.....	.....	17,000	.....	.....	576,600
California.....	332,000	.....	220,300	.....	36,700E,K)	.....	8,000PC	4,000 E)	.....	8 T	.....	.....	5,500 E)	26 E	.....	308,600
Colorado.....	254,400E,K)	.....	.....	.....	PC	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,500
Connecticut.....	5,500 E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	500
Delaware.....	500 E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	33,900
Florida.....	33,000 E) 2/	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	932 T	.....	.....	18,200
Georgia.....	17,100 E	.....	.....	.....	34,000	1,000	6,500	800	.....	2,000	.....	.....	1,100 E	.....	.....	149,300
Idaho.....	10,000	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,000
Illinois.....	6,000 E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,000
Indiana.....	5,000 E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,000
Iowa.....	3,000 E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	200
Kansas.....	130 E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	70 T	2,200
Kentucky.....	2,200 E) 4/	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6 T	.....	.....	74,100
Louisiana.....	74,000E,K)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	80 E	.....	.....	331,500
Maine.....	300,000 K	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,500 E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25,000 E	.....	.....	15,000
Maryland.....	15,000E,K	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25 E	.....	.....	17,600
Massachusetts.....	17,500 K	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50 E	.....	.....	881,000
Michigan.....	872,500 E	.....	.....	.....	250E	743 E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,500 E	.....	.....	722,700
Minnesota.....	711,900 E	.....	.....	.....	100E	3,000 E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,700 E	.....	.....	20,700
Mississippi.....	20,700E,K	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35 E	.....	.....	26,500
Missouri.....	26,500 E	.....	.....	.....	31,500	3,700	26,000	1,200	.....	4,800	.....	.....	8,000	690	1,200	223,400
Montana.....	38,600	.....	.....	15E	82E	.....	2,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	306 E	9,700
Nebraska.....	62 E	.....	.....	.....	350	.....	9,000	.....	3,600	.....	.....	.....	40	.....	.....	113,000
Nevada.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35 E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,300 E	.....	.....	61,400
New Hampshire.....	60,000 E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,000 E	.....	.....	31,000
New Jersey.....	31,000 E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	70 E	150,400
New Mexico.....	20,000 E	.....	.....	.....	4,800E	.....	22,500E	30 E	275 E	.....	700E	.....	1,000 E	.....	.....	301,200
New York.....	300,000 E	.....	.....	.....	200E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,800 E	.....	.....	61,200
North Carolina.....	54,200 E	.....	.....	.....	3E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	240 E	.....	.....	.....	21,900
North Dakota.....	18,800 E	.....	.....	.....	57E	.....	2,400E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15 E	.....	22 T,E	10,000
Ohio.....	10,000 E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,900
Oklahoma.....	8,000PC	.....	.....	.....	259	.....	25T	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	600	286,800
Oregon.....	800	.....	90,000	.....	27,000	.....	10,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,000	.....	.....	654,000
Pennsylvania.....	650,000E,K	.....	.....	.....	30E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,000E,K)	.....	.....	300
Rhode Island.....	300 E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32,000
South Carolina.....	31,800 E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	214E	.....	.....	81,400
South Dakota.....	50,000 E)	.....	.....	.....	1,300E)	.....	14,800E)	14 T	.....	168 T)	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,000 T	7,100
Tennessee.....	5,600 E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	950 E	530 E	.....	.....	617,500
Texas.....	500,000 E	.....	.....	.....	500E	.....	9,000PC	50PC	.....	.....	100,000E	.....	200 E	.....	300 E	206,400
Utah.....	200,000 E)	.....	.....	.....	4,500E)	1	1,000 E)	400 E	.....	.....	.....	.....	500 E	.....	PC	75,900
Vermont.....	75,000 K	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	900 E	.....	.....	31,200
Virginia.....	30,000 K	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,000 E	.....	.....	278,000
Washington.....	24,000	.....	.....	.....	23,000	.....	50	20	.....	5,900	.....	.....	18,900	3	50	120,700
West Virginia.....	120,000 E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	700 E	.....	.....	902,700
Wisconsin.....	900,000E,K	.....	.....	.....	11E	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,700 E	.....	.....	179,600
Wyoming.....	4,200 E)	.....	73,900 E)	.....	28,700E)	2,900E)	65,700T	2,200E)	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,900 E	92 E	.....	.....
Totals	5,146,300	1,525,200	427,700	25	194,600	17,900	181,200	8,900	5,100	12,900	100,700	2,000	131,900	811	3,700	7,758,900

Key to letter symbols:

T = total count

PC = partial count

E = estimates by wardens or others

K = kill

1/ 140 fallow deer in addition E

2/ 50 sambar deer in addition E

3/ 72 fallow deer in addition E

4/ 80 fallow deer in addition E

d 220/240



TABLE 2.--BIG-GAME KILL BY STATES, SEASON 1947

State	White-tailed deer	Mule deer	Columbian black-tailed deer	Wood-land caribou	Elk	Moose	Prong-horned antelope	Rocky mountain bighorn	Desert bighorn	Mountain goat	Pecary or javelina	European wild bear	Black bear	Grizzly bear	American bison or buffalo	Totals
Alabama	7,500 E												20 E			7,500
Arizona	1,100 S	6,700 S			501 S										30 CS	8,300
Arkansas	1,900E,S				1 E											1,900
California	47,200 S											500 E	1,000 E			48,700
Colorado	46,700 CS				4,800 CS								463 CS			52,000
Connecticut	437 S				1,5											437
Delaware	17 E															17
Florida	4,800 I												38 E			4,800
Georgia	1,600 E												30 E			1,600
Idaho	2,000 E	16,900 E			6,500 CS	32 CS	461 CS	15 CS		67 CS			408 C			26,400
Illinois																
Indiana																
Iowa																
Kansas																
Kentucky	11 E, 2												3 C			14
Louisiana	5,600 SC												8 E, I			5,600
Maine	30,400												**			30,400
Maryland	1,100 CS															1,100
Massachusetts	4,000 S															4,000
Michigan	114,500 S												1,700 S			116,200
Minnesota	74,400												**			74,400
Mississippi	1,800 CS															1,800
Missouri	1,400 S															1,400
Montana	2,200	10,500			6,700	99	2,800	5		128			811	67	19 C	23,300
Nebraska																19
Nevada		13,000 4					371 S						315 E			13,400
New Hampshire	10,600 E				2 1/2											10,900
New Jersey	3,900 S															3,900
New Mexico	500 CS	8,500 CS			200 CS		441 CS						290 E			9,900
New York	17,300 S															17,300
North Carolina	7,000 E															7,000
North Dakota	15,400 E	10 E			9 CS		10 E					25 E	845 E		7 CS	15,400
Ohio	1,200 S															1,200
Oklahoma	694 CS															694
Oregon		23,000			2,100E								569 E			38,300
Pennsylvania	95,000E,S				5 1/2								S, I			95,600
Rhode Island																
South Carolina	3,500E,C															
South Dakota	9,000 S	2,000 S			200 E		1,875 S						50 E			3,500
Tennessee	100 CS											19 E	6 E			119
Texas	45,000 E	400 E					578 CS				5,000 E		10 E			51,000
Utah																
Vermont	5,600 E,S	60,000 I			1,100 S		85 S						**			61,200
Virginia	4,000 S												400 E			6,000
Washington	2,800 S*	13,300 S*											164 S			4,100
West Virginia	5,500 E,S				2,400 S								2,500 E			31,000
Wisconsin	53,600 CS												125 E			5,600
Wyoming	470 E	18,300 E			7,200 E	180 E	10,500 E	22 E					721 E			54,300
													194 E	3 E		36,900
													CS			
Totals	535,900	283,200	26,300		31,900	315	17,100	42		195	5,000	544	10,600	70	56	891,200

\*\* not a game animal, "hundreds" reported killed in Maine  
a/ illegal  
E/ highway kills

1/ 7 sambar deer in addition  
2/ 4 fallow & 5 red deer in addition  
3/ 1947 figures not available  
4/ 1948 kill, none given for 1947

Key to letter symbols:  
CS = checking stations  
E = estimates by wardens or others  
I = interviews or questionnaires  
S = license stub or card returns  
PC = partial count

